

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Before entry of the present amendment, Claims 1-26 were pending.

In accordance with the examiner's suggestion, the subject matter of Claims 14-16 have been incorporated into the intervening claims and rewritten in independent for allowance.

For clarification, there are now three independent claims: Claim 14, Claim 15 and Claim 16. Independent Claim 14 and dependent Claims 17-20 and 27-33 form a single series of claims. Independent Claim 15 and dependent Claims 34-44 form a separate series of claims. Independent Claim 16 and dependent Claims 45-57 form another separate series of claims. The subject matter of dependent Claims 17-20 and 27-33 are replicated as dependent Claims 34-44 and Claims 45-55. Claims 56 and 57 (depending from Claim 16) are different than those in the aforementioned series. The dependent claims depend directly or indirectly from allowable independent claims, and are therefore allowable as well.

There are 3 independent claims and a total of 38 claims. A fee of \$450 (18 claims in excess of 20 x \$25 per claim in excess = \$450) accompanies this response.

Therefore, in view of foregoing amendments and clarifications, the applicant submits that allowance of the present application and all remaining claims, as amended, is in order and a formal Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested at the earliest possible date.

Utility Patent
Ser. No. 10/755,160

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Olen L. York, III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent "O" and "Y".

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